

Ps 73 is a testimony psalm

30 years ago... Ashley born... diabetes... poor...humanism → doubt

1. My **Conclusion** is that God Blesses his People, v. 1

- “The Lord is good” = blesses...how?
- Always helps, guides, delivers, leads

“This is where I ended up, but how did I come to that conclusion? Well, first I have to tell you about...

2. My **Confusion** About the World, vv. 2–16

1) I almost **left** the Lord, 2–3

- I saw how successful and thriving they were
- I wanted that too!
- If they have all that without living for Christ, maybe I’m wrong and they’re right
- This affected my seeking and living for the Lord

2) From my **angle**, nothing goes wrong for the wicked, 4–12

- Free from troubles, 4–5
- Proud and ruthless, 6
- They have everything they want, 7
- Their evil speech threatens, scoffs, & intimidates, 8–10
- They don’t think God notices or cares, 11
- To sum up, they’re carefree, comfortable, & well-off, 12

3) I became convinced it was **wrong** to follow Christ, 13–14

- I’ve seen that the wicked despise God and prosper
- I see that I seek God and suffer
- I thus envy them (vv. 2-3)
- I’ve wasted my time seeking the Lord, living for him—what has it brought?
- Continual, constant suffering!
- The result of my thinking was stumbling and slipping, almost left Christ (v. 2)

4) I didn’t **publicize** my doubts, 15–16

- We see the Lord’s preserving grace here
- Such a testimony would be harmful and wrong
- PTL he didn’t have FB, Twitter, or Instagram

3. My **Correction** by the Lord, vv. 17–26

I was not in a good place. What to do?

Well, what did my parents and pastor tell me to do when I doubted the Lord or had questions? **“Seek the Lord!!”**

1) I went to **church**, 17

- Through God’s appointed means I gained a full awareness/knowledge of the whole situation, 17
- In the psalmist’s time, God had the temple and all wrapped up with it as the means for knowing him and his will
- The Word read and sung by Levites and Israelites
- Pss 63:2; 77:13 → 27:4

When I did so...

2) The Lord helped me see things from his **angle**, 18–20

God will judge the wicked suddenly, when they least expect it...

- Inescapable, 18a
- Sovereign, 18b (they were always in God’s power)
- Suddenly, 19a
- Complete reversal of situation, 19b
- Completely forgotten, 20

(1) It seems as if God is asleep, doing nothing

(2) Yet when God judges they will be like a dream—completely forgotten

As a result of this...

3) I saw I was thinking like an **unbeliever**, 21–22

- When I learned truth from God, saw the whole picture from his point of view
- I saw I was viewing things like an unbeliever (Rom 12:2), 22a
- I viewed and assessed from physical instinct, 22b
- This grieved and vexed me, 21

4) Though I doubted, God was **faithful**, 23–24

How? Three ways...

- God’s help in the past, 23b
- God’s guidance in the present, 24a
- God’s salvation in the future, 24b

Gen 5:24 Enoch walked with God; & he was not, for God took him.
 2 Kings 2:3 The Lord took Elijah
 Psalm 49:15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me.

5) My **faith** was strengthened, 25–26

- Though I envied the physical, material abundance of the wicked, that will all pass away
- God will not – he is my “possession,” desire, strength, inheritance

1 John 2:17 “*the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*”

- I may lose everything and have nothing in this world, in the Lord I have everything

2 Cor 5:1 “*we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*”

- Because I have the Lord, I no longer envy the things of this world

4. My **Conviction** of the Lord’s Justice, vv. 27–28

1) I **know** the Lord will judge the wicked, 27 – **NOTE:**

- Those who reject, abandon, are unfaithful to the Lord
- The certainty of his judgment

2) I **trust** the Lord and will tell of his works, 28

- “*Draw near to God*” – contra v. 27 – so v. 17

God may not seem very near, but he is → vv. 23-24

- In contrast with vv. 15–16 when I wouldn’t publicly proclaim my doubts, I will publicly proclaim what the Lord has done and will do

It sure can seem, can’t it, that everything goes right for others?

Can make you doubt and question the Lord can't it?

☞ When you’re tempted to leave Christ because the world looks better, you must **seek** the Lord, see things from his **angle**, and **trust** him, because the Lord blesses his people.

The key point of the Psalm is v. 17—only when the psalmist saw things from God’s angle/perspective and by faith believed that his assessment and attitude were corrected.

APPLICATIONS

1. The most foolish thing you can do is evaluate your life with Christ from your angle of current conditions.

- 1) Results in doubting and questioning – taking your eyes off Christ and looking at the wind and waves, v. 2

- 2) Results in viewing spiritual truths and conditions from materialistic angle, v. 13
- 3) Results in a “woe-is-me” attitude, v. 14

2. Envy is practical idolatry. Beware!

- 1) This is living by sight, not faith
- 2) This is not being content with what you have
- 3) This is leaning on your own understanding
- 4) This is judging Christ by the world

Christian, you must not love the things of this world—they’re passing away! 1 John 2:15-17; Matt 6; Col 3:1-4

3. There are not different angles, there is only God’s angle.

- 1) His way is only known from him, through the means and channels he has given
- 2) The only legitimate response to God’s provided explanation is belief, faith: knowledge, assent, and unreserved trust

4. Your church must be baked into your schedule.

- 1) Doubts are the first steps to departing from Christ – living by sight, not faith.
- 2) The effect it will have on your soul
- 3) The effect it will have on other believers, v. 15
- 4) Must be devoted to the means/channel Christ provided for perseverance and growth, Acts 2:47; Heb 10:24-25

5. Though you feel God is far away, by faith know he is always present.

Do vv. 4–12 characterize you? Your sure end is 18–20, 27! R&F in JC!